STATE 021913 9911

JCS-06

OCT-00 ADS-00 H-01 ARA-16 CA-01 [illegible]

DRAFTED BY CA/OCS:RBLANE:IS
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TO AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR IMMEDIATE

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TAGS: CASC, ES

SUBJECT: ASST SEC ASENCIO MEETING ON SULLIVAN CASE

1. CA ASST SEC ASENCIO, ACCOMPANIED BY DAS LANE, AND EMR WARDCALLED ON CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA AT HER OFFICE TODAY TO BRIEF HER AND SULLIVAN'S TWO SISTERS ON THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE. (ROUKEMA HAS SENT TWO CRITICAL LETTERS TO THE DEPT ON THE CASE)

2. ASENCIO EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE THAT DEPT ATTACHES TO CASE AND EFFORTS BEING MADE BOTH HERE AND BY EMBASSY TO FIND AN ANSWER TO SULLIVAN'S DISAPPEARANCE. ASENCIO APOLOGIZED FOR PAST DELAYS AND ASSURED THE SULLIVANS AND MRS. ROUKEMA THAT WE WOULD ATTEMPT TO IMPROVE OUR COMMUNICATIONS IN THE FUTURE.

3. SULLIVAN'S SISTERS STILL ARE CONCERNED WITH LACK OF SOLID INFORMATION AS TO WELFARE AND WHEREABOUTS OF BROTHER AND, WHILE APPRECIATIVE OF OUR EFFORTS, ARE UNLIKELY TO CEASE THEIR CAMPAIGN ON HIS BEHALF. THEY STILL TEND TO BELIEVE THAT THE AUTHOR (S) OF LETTERS 1 AND 2 ARE OR COULD BE IN POSSESSION OF IMPORTANT INFORMATION AS TO THEIR BROTHER'S FATE AND BELIEVE EVERY E[illegible]RT SHOULD BE MADE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE AUTHOR (S).

4. ASENCIO UNDERLINED THE EFFORTS UNDERTAKEN THUS FAR AND ASSURED CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA AND THE SULLIVANS THAT THIS MATTER IS BEING GIVEN THE VERY HIGHEST PRIORITY WITHIN CA AND AT THE EMBASSY. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT WHILE HE PERSONALLY WAS PREPARED TO SPARE NO EFFORT IN PURSUIT OF AN ANSWER TO SULLIVAN'S DISAPPEARANCE, THE SULLIVANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT MOST OF THOSE PURPORTING TO POSSESS SOLID INFORMATION ARE NOT TO BE BELIEVED; THAT THE REAL TEST FOR ANY OF THEM IS THEIR ABILITY TO SUBSTANTIATE THEIR WORDS WITH SOLID EVIDENCE, NONE OF WHICH HAS BEEN PRODUCED AS YET.

5. THROUGHOUT MEETING, SULLIVAN FAMILY SHOWED CONTINUING BELIEF THAT USG AND EMBASSY WERE INVOLVED IN COVER-UP OF SULLIVAN DISAPPEARANCE IN ORDER TO PROTECT USG POLICY TOWARD EL SALVADOR. ASENCIO STRONGLY REFUTED THE THESIS REITERATING THAT HE, AMBASSADOR HINTON AND THEIR STAFFS WERE PURSUING THE CASE IN GOOD FAITH UNDER DIFFICULT EVEN DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES. FAMILY MEMBERS WERE UNMOVED; CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA DID NOT APPEAR SHARE THEIR GENERAL ATTITUDE WHICH IS A COMMON ONE FOR RELATIVES OF VICTIMS.

6. MEETING LASTED FOR APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR. AT THE END, ALL AGREED THAT RESULTS HAD BEEN POSITIVE AND THAT WE WOULD ENSURE THAT THE SULLIVAN FAMILY AND

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CONGRESSWOMAN ROUKEMA'S STAFF ARE FULLY INFORMED OF PERTINENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE CASE IN A TIMELY FASHION. LASTLY, AMBASSADOR ASENCIO INFORMED ALL THAT HE WAS DISPATCHING EMR JIM WARD TO VISIT EL SALVADOR AS PART OF A TRIP TO THE CENTRAL AMERICA/SOUTH AMERICA REGION TO LOOK AT OCS PROBLEMS IN THAT AREA. WARD WOULD BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON ABOUT FEBRUARY 5 AND WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THE PARTIES.

7. FYI ASST SEC ASENCIO WAS DEPARTING MEETING, HE WAS QUERIED BY UPI REPS ON PURPOSE AND RESULTS OF THE MEETING. THE AMBASSADOR GAVE THEM A BRIEF OVERVIEW.

8. WARD WILL ARRIVE SAN SALVADOR FEBRURY 1 AT 6:05 P.M. ABOARD CM-318 FROM MANAGUA AND PLANS DEPART FEBRUARY 2 AT 6:30 P.M. ON CM-318 FOR GUATEMALA CITY. STOESSEL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY [signature] DATE MAR 1 5 1984
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TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
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